

Features

Clarkson Radio Offers Progressive Music

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Those of you who have grown sick of, or never embraced to begin with, the Top 40 radio stations that seem to be everywhere, might consider tuning into Progressions on WNTC, cable 102.9, Monday nights at 8:00. The show, hosted by Mike Borella and Marty Roesch, is one of the few progressive rock programs available on the airwaves.

What is progressive rock? Although no standard definition exists, Borella defined it is an intricate form of music that is constantly changing, both lyrically and musically. It is always new and often the works are exceptionally long.

Progressive rock is a genre that traces its roots back to the 60's, to bands like Rush, Genesis, Yes, and Emerson, Lake, and Palmer.

As these bands moved into the present, they commercialized to survive. However, their earlier work can be considered a long-lived example of progressive rock. Borella suggested that Rush remains a progressive band, despite its commercialization, since it is continuously changing.

While the progressive bands from the 60's commercialized and lost their progressive sound, new bands sprung up and took their place. Marillion, IQ, and Pendragon are among the progressive bands of today.

With Progressions, Borella and Roesch hope to promote progressive rock as a genuine form of music. They pointed out that members of progressive bands have often had classical music training, and that this training is reflected in their work. Progression's goal is to create an appreciative audience for this not-

so-well known form of music.

Roesch became interested in progressive rock after he began listening to Genesis. He likes the complexity and intricacy of the music. Also, it offers him something other than songs "about the end of the world or love." Progressions gives him the opportunity to delve further into this interest.

Borella, who is the general manager for Clarkson Radio, began the show last January. Like Roesch, Borella also enjoys the complexity of this form of music. How does he find out about progressive bands? "Hard work," he responded. He said that West Coast contacts made through E-mail have been helpful. He has gone through the many recordings in Clarkson Radio's collection to find works that he feels are progressive. Several weeks ago, he went to Montreal to look for material not available here in the

United States. He corresponds by mail with others who are interested in progressive rock. Imports are another source, as are used record stores.

Progressive music is very much a part of both Borella and Roesch. Borella said that he thinks people who listen to progressive rock are more into the music than, say, someone who listens to top 40, as a result of the time and effort required to find it.

As Borella will be graduating at the end of this semester, Roesch is currently looking for someone with similar musical tastes to work with him on the show next year. Anyone interested is encouraged to get in touch with him.

It appears that the two have an interesting semester planned for the show. Next Monday night at 8:00, tune into cable 102.9 and listen for yourself.